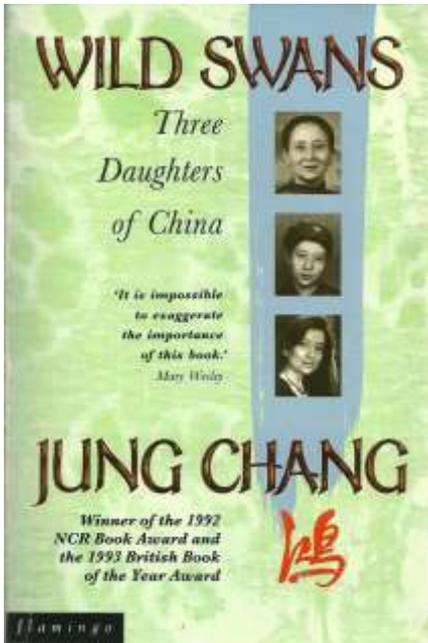




Maidstone Grammar School  
*for Girls*

*Non sibi sed omnibus*



Wild Swans by Jung Chang \*\*\*\*\*

This is an inspirational story of three remarkable women living in one of China's most turbulent times. In Wild Swans we read a record of three generations struggling to survive.

First we meet the grandmother, who at the age of three has her feet bound so they are no longer than 3" long (this is supposed to be sexy, but is excruciatingly painful). At 15 she is given to a warlord to be a concubine (a woman who lives with a man but has lower status than his wife or wives).

Next, we meet the mother, who joins the communist party of China in the lead up to the revolution in 1949. This generation covers the rise of the Communist party and their ideologies of "The Great Leap Forward" followed by the ugly realisation of Chairman Mao's "Cultural Revolution". Which led to all forms of literature and media being destroyed, and films, theatre and

sport being banned, which seriously affected the author's adolescents and young adult life.

Despite the struggles faced by the family they still remain strong and steadfast. This is despite the author's father being killed in 1975, after being imprisoned in a forced labour camp for denouncing the party. Once Deng Xiaoping came to power the country became more relaxed, to the point that the author was able to study abroad. She came to England to study and eventually gained a doctorate.

This moving story catches the hearts of all those who read it, covering the best and worst of humanity. I would definitely recommend this to those with an interest in history age 14+.

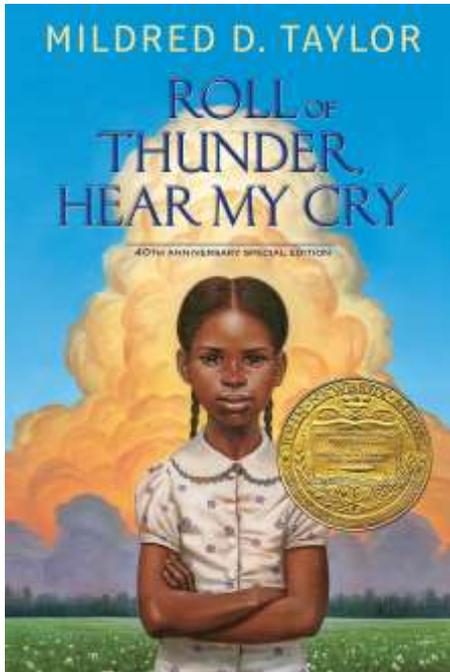
By Mrs H Vaughan

*A forward-thinking community with a tradition of excellence*



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*Non sibi sed omnibus*



Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred D Taylor \*\*\*\*\*

This captivating story is set in the 1930's, in Mississippi. It tells the story of the Logan family. Nine year old Cassie is the story teller, who starts off with the children heading to school. The description of the building and old second hand books is so vivid and shows the difference between the White people and the oppressed Coloured people.

Although the Logan family own a two hundred acre farm they are far from safe. With the "Night Riders" constant raids and the white harassment of black people each character has their own struggles to face.

This book is superbly written and evokes feelings of injustice and an understanding of social struggles in the deep south of America before the civil rights movement. I would recommend this book to readers aged 14+.

By Mrs H Vaughan

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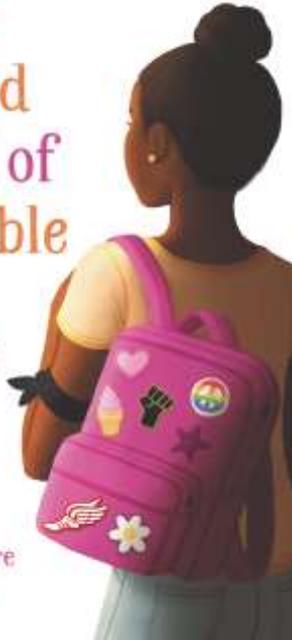
Maidstone Grammar School  
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A  
Good  
Kind of  
Trouble

"Full of heart  
and truth."  
—ANGIE THOMAS,  
#1 New York Times  
bestselling author of  
*The Hate U Give*

Lisa Moore  
Ramée



A Good Kind of Trouble By Lisa Moore Ramee \*\*\*\*\*

A Good Kind of Trouble follows the growth of Shayla Willows, a Coloured seventh grader at Emerson Junior High. Shayla becomes more aware of racial injustice when a police officer is acquitted of shooting a Coloured man in the back, despite incriminating video evidence.

Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. (Oh, and she'd also like to make it through seventh grade with her best friendships intact, learn to run track, and have a cute boy see past her giant forehead.) But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed.

In my perspective, this book is really good because it teaches you something and also it really grabs your attention.

I would recommend this book to readers aged 11+. It's really good and it is for all types of readers. I hope you read this

book.

By Zara A A 7A

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